VZCZCXRO1163 OO RUEHLH RUEHPW DE RUEHIL #1227/01 1560332 ZNR UUUUU ZZH O 050332Z JUN 09 ZFR FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3076 INFO RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 0431 RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 0558 RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 5032 RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY 1775 RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY 7377 RUEHPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR PRIORITY 6321 RUMICEA/USCENTCOM INTEL CEN MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY RHMFISS/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 4010 RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 9553

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 ISLAMABAD 001227

SENSITIVE SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREF PREL PHUM EAID PTER PGOV PINR PK

SUBJECT: JUNE 4 DISPLACED PERSONS AND MILITARY SITUATION

UPDATE

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## Food Assistance

16. (U) According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) the GoP Ministry of Food and Agriculture plans to transfer 50,000 metric tons (MT) of wheat donated through USDA's Food for Progress program as follows: 20,000 MT to the GoP Special Support Group; 20,000 MT to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP; and 10,000 MT to the Ministry of Social Welfare. The recipient organizations will be responsible for associated handling, milling, and distribution costs of the food donations.

- 17. (U) WFP food monitors confirmed local news reports of the sale of a substantial amount of humanitarian food assistance through a well-developed network of wholesalers and retailers. On June 3, local police arrested 16 people selling food meant for displaced populations. WFP reported that the problem originated due to double counting and other inaccuracies in registration lists, resulting in a surplus of food distributed in May. WFP also noted that some displaced persons had legitimately sold the wheat grain distributed to buy wheat flour.
- ¶8. (U) WFP assured the USAID/DART food officer that WFP will henceforth distribute wheat flour and not wheat grain, will pause operations for five days beginning June 24 to incorporate the revised, reduced and validated beneficiary lists created by the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) into food distributions. WFP expects the problem of substantial sales of food assistance will be greatly reduced with the new registration lists.

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¶9. (U) Pakistan,s Information Minister, Qamar ul-Zaman Kaira, said that registered internally displaced persons would begin receiving a one-off cash grant of 25,000 rupees (USD 312) per family on Tuesday, June 9. While power, water and gas remain cut-off in Mingora, he said the utilities will be restored within the next two weeks, along with schools and hospitals. Special Support Group (SSG) Chairman Lt Gen Nadeem Ahmed said that 1,300 soldiers were providing services to IDPs in the Mardan, Swabi, Nowshera, Charsada and Peshawar districts.

## Military Activity

- 10. (U) Reporting on June 4 on military operations in Swat focuses on the town of Charbagh, about 10 kilometers northeast of Mingora. The military's chief spokesman, Major General Athar Abbas, said on June 3 that GoP forces had met stiff resistance in the town but had, nonetheless, successfully secured it and were consolidating their positions. Charbagh was a likely destination for some of the militants who fled Mingora. Abbas reported the discovery of a very large cache of explosives just north of Charbagh. Despite the claimed stiff resistance, reported casualties were very light, with only three militants and one government soldier killed. MG Abbas was in Mingora and told reporters that it could take another two months of fighting to rout the militants from their hideouts in Swat.
- 111. (U) Just to the west of Mingora, the military appears to be gearing up for a fight over the town of Kabal. Major General Ijaz Awan, a senior commander in the battle for Mingora, said that they have taliban commanders "bottled up" in Kabal. To the north, along the road that follows the Swat river, the military continued to consolidate its positions as far as Kalam, 70 kilometers north of Mingora.
- $\underline{\mathbf{1}}$ 12. (U) In the June 4 daily military press conference, the ISLAMABAD 00001227 003 OF 003

spokesman said that 1400 militants have been killed and 100 captured, militant radio broadcasts have been disrupted, and government forces are targetting the taliban leadership. Television news reports claimed that an operation in Chakdarra, a town in Lower Dir, is imminent. Also on June 4, 47 students and four instructors from the Razmak Cadet College who were kidnapped in North Waziristan on June 1 were reported to have been released. Eighty one others had been immediately rescued, but the fate of the remaining 51 was unknown until today.

**PATTERSON**